

Claims

1. A method to isolate a composition which inhibits insulin secretion in β TC-6 cells and HIT-T15 cells and is non-cytotoxic to β TC-6 cells but; cytotoxic to HIT-T15 cells; and which is cytotoxic to SV40 Mes13 cells, but not cytotoxic to MDCK cells, which method comprises

a) extracting the bark of *Ficus bengalensis* with a solvent of lower alcohols to obtain an extract;

b) drying the extract to obtain a residue;

c) dissolving the residue in methanol;

d) loading the dissolved residue onto an activated silica gel column;

e) eluting the column with additional ethanol:hexane (2:1) to obtain an eluent; and

f) removing solvent from the eluent to obtain said composition.

2. A composition obtainable by the method of claim 1.

3. A method to treat tumors that secrete insulin which method comprises administering to a subject in need of such treatment an amount of the composition of claim 2 effective to treat said tumor.

4. A method to inhibit insulin secretion which method comprises contacting cells that secrete insulin with an amount of the composition of claim 2 effective to decrease insulin secretion.

5. A method to treat tumors characterized by HIT-T15 or β TC-6 cell line characteristics which method comprises administering to a subject in need of such treatment an amount of the composition of claim 2 effective to treat said tumor.